(b) Yes. They were given whatever treatment they were entitled to under the Rules, as regards simple imprisonment prisoners.

Water-cess for new reclamations.

268. **Mr. A. Eachara Menon**—Will the Government be pleased to state—

(i) the rate of water-cess for new reclamations (double crop lands);

(ii) the rate collected from the British tenants ;

(iii) whether water is given without cess for any in the British territory for taking water along his land to the neighbouring land which pays the cess ;

(iv) if so, what is the extent of the land that pays and the land that does not pay ?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—(i) Rs. 7½ per acre.

(ii) No water is supplied for new reclamations of lands to British tenants.

(iii) No.

(iv) No answer is necessary in view of the answer to sub division (iii).

New accretion paddy fields in Narakkal and Nayarambalam.

269. **Mr. Poulo Mampilli.**—Will the Government be pleased to state, if it has received a petition from the paddy field-holders of Narakkal and Nayarambalam praying that the assessment on the new accretion paddy fields may be reduced ?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—No petition seems to have been received.

270. **Mr. Poulo Mampilli.**—Will the Government be pleased to state the nature of the order, if any, passed on the petition ?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—No answer is necessary in view of the reply to question No. 269 above.

271. **Mr. Poulo Mampilli.**—Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Agricultural Department has done anything to see, if those lands could be made to yield any return? If not, why not ?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—No The department has had no requisition from any ryot to conduct any experiment on the lands.

272. **Mr. Poulo Mampilli.**—In view of the condition of these lands, will the Government be pleased to order the Agricultural Department to conduct some experiments on a small plot of such land to serve as an object lesson to the people ?

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Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—The matter will receive due consideration.

273. Mr. Poulo Mampilli.—Will the Government be pleased to state, if it is not a fact that the accretion paddy fields are assessed on a higher scale than the good paddy fields near the backwater?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—No.

274. Mr. Poulo Mampilli.—In view of the condition of the accretion paddy fields, will the Government kindly consider the reduction of the assessment on those lands, if it has not passed any order on the matter?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—The Government see no justification to reduce the assessment fixed after due classification of the soil.

Delay in the publication of Departmental Administration Reports.

275. Mr. Poulo Mampilli.—(a) Will the Government be pleased to state if it does not consider 8 months too much for the publication of a *Departmental Administration Report*?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to take steps to have such inordinate delays in publication stopped?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—(a) and (b). The Government cannot say one way or the other without examining the particular circumstances of the case, if there has been one.

Minor Municipalities in Kunnamkulam and Irinjalakkuda..

276. Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Will the Government be pleased to state what were the recommendations of the Diwan Peishkar, the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer and the Superintendent of Agriculture and Panchayats with regard to the establishment of minor Municipalities at Kunnamkulam and Irinjalakkuda?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Copy of the joint report of the officers containing the information is appended. (*Vide Appendix VI.*)

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Have the Government passed final orders on the final report?

President.—No.

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